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SALOON SCREENS

Must Be Removed if the Ordinance Presented to Council Monday Is Passed.

The Object is to Aid the Officers in Enforcing the Nine O'Clock Closing Ordinance and Sunday Law.--Bell Telephone Co. Hasn't a Franchise.

Owing to the inclemency of the weather but few were in attendance at the regular monthly meeting of Council in the City Building Monday. All the members except Mr. Newell were present, however, and it was one of the most interesting meetings for a long time.

After the acceptance of the Mayor's monthly report and reading of the minutes Mayor Gardner made several recommendations to Council. The finance committee had never made a settlement with Mr. McShurely when he turned over the Treasurer's office to Mr. Woodrow a year ago, and there was a slight discrepancy and a misunderstanding concerning the dividend due from the defunct First National Bank. In order that the present City Clerk and Treasurer would be able to make their annual report on March 1st, the finance committee was instructed by Council to examine the books before the next regular meeting.

In order to keep account of outages of the Electric Light Co., it was decided upon suggestion of the Mayor to have the police make written reports each day and the proper blanks were ordered purchased.

This would also do away with the "lapse of memory" excuse of the police men for failing to report misdemeanors that came to their notice.

Since a franchise was granted the Greenfield Bell Telephone Co., the Bell Company has been in possession of the village in several places and have put in a bill for a telephone that the city expected to receive free. In discussing this bill, Mayor Gardner called attention to the fact that the Bell Company did not have a franchise to operate in Hillsboro, and suggested that council should see that public privileges were not given away, if a franchise was granted them and they were allowed to operate their plant in this city. The plan seemed to take well with all the Councilmen and unless the Bell Company grants more liberal terms, may be ordered to remove their poles from the streets.

The petition from the residents of the Hough addition requesting a fire alarm box, and electric light at the corner of Trinity and Monroe streets was laid over until the next regular meeting.

The telephone wires have lately interfered with the fire alarm system and caused the village considerable expense, and in several places the telephone wires were on the poles of the village. It was the sense of Council that both systems use their own poles, and be kept entirely separate.

Monthly reports from the City Weighmaster and Street Commissioner were accepted.

The annual report of the Board of Health was read and accepted and highly complimented by different Councilmen for excellence and completeness. It will be found in another column of this paper.

A large number of bills were presented. Many of them were old and a few going back two years or more. After some discussion it was decided to request all who have claims against the village to present their bills monthly and under no circumstances to allow the claims to run over the year in which the debt was contracted. All were passed except the bill of the Bell Telephone Co.

The Street Committee reported that they had taken no action regarding the Bowers hedge.

The Fire Committee was authorized to purchase new lanterns for the Fire Department.

A resolution appropriating \$200 for repairing streets during February was passed.

Solicitor Watts sprung a surprise by presenting an ordinance prohibiting screens, stained glass or any other obstruction between all saloons and the streets. It also prohibits the giving of checks on pool or billiard games and the playing of cards or dice in any place where intoxicating liquor is sold. The back door or side entrance was also prohibited. This move was made by the temperance people to assist the Mayor in enforcing the nine o'clock closing ordinance and Sunday law. The saloons have been paying but little attention to the law, and though Mayor Gardner has tried to enforce the law, his hands have been tied by the police, who make no attempt to arrest the law breakers. The Mayor has no power over the police, owing to the stand taken by Council in refusing to allow him to appoint new policemen or remove the old ones. The proposed ordinance will make it much more difficult for the saloons to run

after hours and its fate will decide whether the Councilmen were in earnest when they asked for the enforcement of the saloon ordinances. The constitution and objects of the Ohio Municipal League were read and it was decided to have a representative at the annual meeting to be held in Cleveland in May and the Mayor was instructed to forward the necessary dues.

TURNPIKE BOND DECISION.

Buyers of Pike Bonds Should Take Notice of Limitation of Taxation.

The Hillsboro and West Union Pike case which was decided by the Ohio Supreme Court on January 22d, is reported in the Ohio Legal News as follows: "A. L. Miller et al. vs. Charles E. Hixson, as Treasurer of Highland Co., Error to the Circuit Court of Highland Co."

"Burket, J. "1. A statute which imposes a new or additional burden, duty, obligation or liability, as to past transactions, is retroactive, and in conflict with that part of Sec. 28, Article 2 of the Constitution, which provides that 'The General Assembly shall have no power to pass the retroactive laws.'"

"2. The amendment of Sec. 4812, Rev. Stat., 83 O. L., 85, passed April 17, 1886, adding five years the period for which extra taxes might be levied under the One Mile Pike Law, is retroactive and void as to such pikes as had been constructed before the passage of that amendment."

"3. Sections 4814-4815, Rev. Stat., are not applicable to pikes constructed in special taxing districts where the extra tax for such pike is required to be levied alike on the valuation of both real and personal property within the district."

"4. A purchaser of bonds issued under the One Mile Pike Law, is bound to take notice of the limitations upon the power of taxation, the extent of the special taxing district, and of the valuation of the property therein; and if he makes a mistake the loss must fall upon him, rather than upon the property owners to such special district."

"Judgment reversed. All concur." The above decision limits the levy of pike taxes during each year to ten mills on each dollar of the assessed valuation of the real and personal property within the taxing district. The time for the levying and collecting of taxes to pay off bonds issued for payment of pikes constructed before 1886 is limited to 13 years and for those constructed after 1886 the time of settlement is limited to 23 years.

There are no other means provided for raising a revenue to pay off pike bonds.

Sections 4814-4815 are applicable to pikes built by pike companies. As the questions involved in the case are constitutional ones, an appeal of the suit may be taken to the United States Courts by the holders of the bonds.

Mrs. Elizabeth Hughes.

The mother of the present Judge of the Probate Court, O. H. Hughes, some few months ago was stricken with blindness and was unable to go about her home without some hand to guide her steps. After a careful examination it was concluded that an almost painless operation would restore her sight, and she was taken to Cincinnati to the Good Samaritan Hospital where she was operated upon with wonderful success, her sight returned and she was on the high road to recovery. But the terrible scourge grip, attacked the aged mother which developed into pneumonia and she quietly passed away on the morning of February 1, 1901, in the 79th year of her age. Deceased was united in marriage to Hon. John L. Hughes, October 8th, 1840. Of this union 13 children were born, seven of whom remain to mourn the absence of a loving mother. The remains were brought from Cincinnati and interred in the family burying ground at Marshall beside the sleeping dust of her husband who died eleven years before in the same month and almost the same day of the month, Mrs. Hughes dying at 11 o'clock on the first day of the month and her husband at 8:15 on the second day. Funeral services were conducted by Rev. J. W. Klise, of this city, and notwithstanding it was the most dreadful day of the year, 600 or 700 people attended.

Do you know what a "rummage" sale is? Ask the ladies of the M. E. Church. They will conduct one beginning on the 23d. They will receive donations of any kind, from an old corn cutter to a pair of gum shoes. Absolutely any old thing they will accept. Bring your grandfathers' old hat, boots or saddle bags; your grandmother's irons, candle-moulds or spinning wheel. Being old clothes, old shoes, half hose or rubber hose. Bring last century garments, antiquated furniture, pictures that you have grown tired of. Ransack your garret, closet and cellar and get clear of your old lumber and rubbish. Mrs. Gregg can tell you all about it.

Stabler Bros. for Valentines.

Five boxes of good matches for only 5 cents at Stabler Bros.

FARMERS' INSTITUTE.

Eighth Annual Meeting Held in Hillsboro Friday and Saturday, February 2-3.

The Most Successful Meeting in the History of the Organization--Large Crowds in Attendance--A Full Report With Notes.

The eighth annual meeting of the Hillsboro Farmers' Institute convened at 9 o'clock Friday morning, February 1st. The opening number was music by the Mozart Quartette, followed by an impressive prayer by Rev. S. O. Royal. The Mozarts again were heard. Then came the first lecture by J. A. Dobie on the purchasing and care of farm implements. The first question asked at this session was asked by F. M. Wilkin--What kind of oil should be used on plows to keep them from rusting in the winter? Common machine oil. Judge Huggins wanted to know how large a building ought to be to house tools. 36x26.

Dr. Howard next held the attention of those present, which was not large. The doctor, in his clear and able way, told the farmers the cause of much of the lameness in horses. Dr. Howard is always instructive when he undertakes anything in the line of his profession.

Better Farming was the first theme of C. F. Freeman, and this lecture was but the opening gun of others to follow by Mr. Freeman that were full of hard, practical, everyday common sense. As this session opened, so it closed with music--music that was appreciated by all.

AFTERNOON.

At the session of Friday afternoon C. M. Freeman led off (after music, of course) Selecting Fruit to Plant. The gist of Mr. Freeman's remarks was that the average farmer was more likely to buy a "fine tree" because of the pictures representing it than to study for himself what age and kind of tree was best suited to his soil and climate. A lively cross fire followed as a sort of discussion on some of the ideas advanced. This lecture at this time was the first break from the printed program. And Dobie's lecture on preparing the soil for corn and wheat was delivered at the evening session.

Why Young Trees Die for the Farmer was the subject of a carefully prepared and well read paper by J. M. Sanders. Many enemies of the young plant were described in this paper, as well as many of the careless methods of the farmer in transplanting trees. Quite a number of enlightening remarks and suggestions were offered in keeping or criticism of the views expressed by Mr. Sanders.

Music again, that received a hearty encore and which brought the young performers back to the stage, preceded the recitation of Miss Maria Thomas. This recitation was well delivered and also well received by the audience.

A lecture on the horse was delivered by Mr. Dobie. This lecture was given by special request, as it was not on the program. But Dobie was at his very best on this subject. He showed in the highest humor the folly of telling the horse to do three things at one time, explaining what he meant by repeating the familiar command to the horse, "Gee, whoa, haw." Asking his hearers what they would do under such a command, Dobie caught his audience.

FRIDAY EVENING.

The exercises of the evening were introduced as were the morning and afternoon exercises by the quartette in one of their catchy and pleasing numbers, and was heartily applauded by the audience, which was much larger than either of the other sessions.

The evening audience, as has been said, was a large one, and composed largely of Hillsboro people and the subject of Lecturer Dobie was "Character," which was just as instructive, not to say just as useful, to a city audience as it is to a strictly rural one. The deductions of Mr. Dobie were that the surroundings of early life as well as those of later years had very much to do with character traits of each individual. Therefore the exhortation of the lecturer was watch wall and carefully, who are each ones associates.

Miss Verna VanWinkle with the theme "Rejuvenation" made the audience feel rejuvenated at least ten years. This estimate applied to any person who had a feeling of having seen a few more summers than he or she would care to tell.

"Improprieties of Conversation" was the subject of a well written and well read paper by Mrs. C. L. Wilkin. In converse Mrs. Wilkin would barr scoffing, vulgarity, tattling, gossip and lying. If the audience had been a purely Methodist one, and the place a church, the paper would certainly have brought out many hearty amens.

Then followed a solo on the violin by Miss Goldie Mauntell, who, as an amateur, acquitted herself creditably and to the satisfaction of the large audience.

Mr. C. M. Freeman exhorted his audience, at the late hour (9 o'clock) to try to keep awake, and if they must sleep, to at least keep from snoring, while he tried to interest them on "Township High Schools." Mr. Freeman succeeded in gaining the attention of the male part of his audience at least; when he showed that a false notion of what constituted the successful boy on the farm must receive a finished education and get into some profession. Closely blended with this feature was the becoming a modern politician. The conclusion was that money spent for the improvement of the minds of the future citizens of this country was money well spent.

The closing number was an excellent solo by Henry Thompson.

SATURDAY MORNING.

A change in the printed program occurred at this session as it did on Friday afternoon. Mr. C. N. Freeman being the first speaker, his subject being "Caring for Corn Fodder." The reader should remember that Mr. Freeman pleaded for an audience that was "awake" on the preceding evening. On this morning he congratulated his hearers on their being awake so early. He also addressed the chairman as "his honor," and those occupying the jury chairs, (all being ladies) as "gentlemen of the jury." This remark had great effect in not only awakening his hearers but also in keeping them awake during his remarks, which were quite interesting and instructive.

At the close of Mr. Freeman's remarks a number of questions were asked on the subject, which was the "Caring for Corn Fodder," showing that the farmers of this community are caring, (in their mind) at least for their corn fodder.

A trio composed of Misses Goldie Mauntell, Mozell Brooksbank and Mr. H. B. Thompson rendered a fine piece which was heartily enjoyed by the audience.

Following this was a paper by Mr. R. S. Chaney on "Farm Fencing." Riley was quite at home on this subject, for it is a fact that Riley practices what he preaches, for he does not keep fenced fields for one old cow. This paper received a hearty endorsement from Mr. Tobie.

Then followed a duet on the violin and guitar by the Misses Mauntell and Brooksbank.

"Poultry" was the subject of a very interesting paper by Mr. J. W. DeWitt on the forenoon of Friday. Amongst other ideas advanced the speaker confessed to being old enough to have personally observed some of the thoughts spoken about, he said notwithstanding his youthful looks which no doubt the ladies in the audience had noticed, he insisted on being 50 years old, whether anyone believed it or not. This doubtful question of age was endorsed, heartily endorsed without limit by Mr. Freeman, who seems to be an excellent believer on age or "any old question," as age, farms without fences, or what not, Mr. Dobie, Scotch wit, dropped out in telling his experience in raising chicks.

SATURDAY AFTERNOON.

Following the regular order of the program the first thing in order was music, which, as usual, was well received. Then followed a lecture by Mr. Dobie on "Hog Raising." While the speaker was telling "how" to raise hogs, the ladies in the audience, whose number was legion at this session, was trying to aid the speaker by murmuring in a subdued tone all through the room.

At the close of Mr. Dobie's talk the committee on resolutions reported as follows:

Resolved, That this, the eighth annual meeting of the farmers in and around the county seat of Highland county, do again heartily endorse the wisdom and benefit of holding these annual gatherings of the farmers and their wives of this section, for the social and educational advantages which these meetings afford to all classes, old or young, both farmers, business and professional men.

Resolved, That this meeting heartily endorse the passage of the Groat bill now pending in the United States Senate, and that the Secretary of this organization be instructed to forward the views of the farmers of Highland county to our United States Senators now in Washington.

This Institute would return its thanks and appreciation for the favors and kindness of Mr. C. S. Bell, D. M. Evans and the Hillsboro papers for their friendly and liberal aid to our organization.

This Institute expresses its appreciation of the efficiency of officers including President, Secretary, Treasurer and Executive Committee.

In noticing conditions which has added to the pleasure and profit of the present sessions should be mentioned the efficiency of the Mozart Quartette, the ability of the foreign speakers, also the care and wisdom shown by those who prepared and read papers during the present sessions of this Institute. In this last matter the committee has the entire approval of the present officers.

The above resolutions were adopted. Then followed the report of the committee on officers for the coming year, which were as follows:

(Continued on page 4)

COMMON PLEAS COURT

By a Compromise the Famous Boyd Will Case Drops Out of Court.

Many Criminal Cases Assigned for Trial--Suit Against Ex-Clerk Keech Settled for \$424.46--Frank Lewis Sentenced to the Penitentiary.

The following cases were assigned for trial Tuesday by Judge Newby: Monday, Feb. 11--W. J. Redkey vs. Sarah E. Epperson. William Shaper et al. vs. Mary Shaper.

Tuesday, Feb. 12--Thos. J. Hastings vs. Ima Troth, executor, etc. Jas. Yoast vs. Village of Hillsboro.

Wednesday, Feb. 13--Alice Reisbois vs. Augustus Reisbois. Jas. W. Newell, gdn. vs. John L. Orebaugh et al.

Thursday, Feb. 14--Jas. L. Durnell vs. Geo. A. Kennedy. Lewis Shaper et al. vs. Daniel Roads et al.

Friday, Feb. 15--Julia Frye vs. Jno. D. Frye. Maggie Frye vs. John D. Frye et al.

Monday, Feb. 25--Ohio vs. John Q. Fenner.

Tuesday, Feb. 26--Ohio vs. Robert Newman. Ohio vs. Geo. Washington.

Wednesday, Feb. 27--Ohio vs. Frank Paul. Ohio vs. John A. McClelland.

Thursday, Feb. 28--Ohio vs. Charles Hartel. Ohio vs. French Day.

Monday, March 4--Clark & Rice vs. W. M. Eagle.

Joseph E. Hare vs. Dewey Bros. Judgment for plaintiff for \$247.50.

State of Ohio vs. W. W. Kretzer indicted for forgery. Continued until next term of court and defendant released on his own recognizance.

State of Ohio vs. Frank Lewis indicted for shooting with intent to kill and wound. A plea of guilty to shooting with intent to wound and kill was entered and he was sentenced to the penitentiary for eighteen months.

Lewis got into trouble with another colored man named Frank Newlon, over a crap game last summer, and while quarrel over 25 cents, shot Newlon in the neck. The bullet lodged in the wind pipe and was spit out by the intended victim.

A. M. Mackery vs. Martha J. Bush et al. Sale confirmed and proceeds ordered distributed among the heirs, who number over a hundred.

The State of Ohio for the use of Highland county, etc. vs. W. A. Keech et al. This was a suit against the bondsmen and heirs of John Keech for drawing illegal fees while Clerk of the Courts. The amount sued for was \$1,034.56, but a large part was outlawed and a compromise was affected by which the bondsmen will pay \$424.46 into the County Treasury.

A. L. Miller et al. vs. Chas. E. Hixson, Treasurer of Highland county. This is the famous West Union Turnpike Bond case, in which the Supreme Court reversed the Common Pleas and is a receipt of their mandate. The decision was given in recent issues of the NEWS-HERALD.

Elizabeth Tate vs. Henry L. Wiggins, executor. Judgment for plaintiff for \$425.48.

State of Ohio vs. Lew Ellis, indicted for pointing fire arms. A plea of guilty entered to carrying concealed weapons and this indictment nollied. Ellis is an industrious young colored man and the court gave him time to pay his fine of \$30 and costs and released him on his own recognizance.

John T. Boyd vs. J. C. Martin et al. This is the Boyd will case which was transferred to this county on a change of venue. Martin was attorney for Mrs. Hattie N. Boyd who left him a large sum in her will. This caused trouble between him and the lawful heirs, and in a quarrel Martin shot and killed George McMillan, a son-in-law of the Mrs. Boyd. Martin was tried for murder in Greene county on a change of venue and was acquitted. A bitter legal fight was expected in the attempt to break the will, but when the case was called Monday, a compromise had been effected and the jury was instructed to bring in verdict for the defendant. The exact nature of the compromise is not known, but it is believed that Martin received a much smaller amount than the will provided.

State of Ohio vs. Edward Reddick, indicted for assault with intent to kill. Motion to quash indictment overruled.

State of Ohio vs. French Day, indicted for shooting with intent to kill and wound. Motion to quash indictment overruled.

Henry Stabler as executor, etc. vs. R. T. Hough et al. R. T. Hough given leave to answer and John W. Washburn to file answer and cross petition.

NEW CASES.

In the matter of vacating the plat of the Robinson subdivision of the village of Greenfield, O. The owner of the property, M. Irwin Danlap, in his petition making the above request, says it is desired to replat the land in a more convenient way.

C. H. Hanson vs. Barbara M. Hanson is a suit for divorce on grounds of gross neglect of duty. Barbara is also charged with leaving his home and going with other men, among whom is

mentioned a negro named Hunley. They have been married since October 29th, 1893, and have no children.

In the matter of the appointment of a trustee for the Hillsboro Short Line Railway to fill the vacancy which has occurred in said Board on account of the death of Fred Zane, late one of said trustees. The petition is signed by C. D. Doggett, Clerk of the village of Hillsboro.

GREAT ECONOMY.

What Electrical Transmission Means as Regards Conservatism of Coal Supplies.

Mr. L. B. Stillwell, who for several years was electrical director of the Niagara Falls Power Company, but who is now electrical director of the Rapid Transit Subway Company of New York City, gives a good idea of the remarkable power plant that will supply electric energy to the Pan-American Exposition, when he says, in the Electrical Review, that "The plant of the Niagara Falls Power Company best illustrates what electric transmission means as regards conservatism of our coal supplies. The great plant is today putting out power which, if produced by a steam plant so economically designed and operated as to consume but three pounds of coal per kilowatt-hour at the switchboard, would require 800 tons each day of the year, or about 300,000 tons per annum. The average consumption of coal per electrical unit output in central station practice is at least twice three pounds, and the Niagara plant is therefore today doing work equivalent to that done by 600,000 tons of coal per annum, burned under conditions better than those prevailing in average central station practice in America, and this is accomplished without robbing the future, since a water power is simply a solar engine and its energy may be utilized without subtracting a single horse power from that which nature intended, not only for our age, but for future ages."

Under these conditions, with nine great transmission cables leading from this power station terminal station that will supply the Exposition, is it any wonder that the Pan-American Exposition is destined to have electricity unlimited for light, heat and power purposes.

Details of the Ship-Subsidy Bill.

Two kinds of subsidy are offered by this bill. One is intended primarily to offset the difference between American and foreign ship wages and costs of ship-construction. This subsidy amounts to one and one-half cents per gross ton for each one hundred nautical miles, not exceeding fifteen hundred miles, and one cent per gross ton for each additional one hundred nautical miles sailed in either an outward or a homeward voyage, provided there are no more than sixteen round voyages in any twelve consecutive months. This mileage subsidy is payable to all ships, sail or steam. Careful calculations based on actual ships and actual voyages show that it will almost exactly accomplish its purpose of giving American ships a protection equivalent to the higher range of American maritime wages.

But there is a second faction to be reckoned with. In one way or another, all the maritime nations of Europe, and even Japan, subsidized either their whole merchant fleet or their best and most effective steamships. To offset these foreign subsidies, the Frye bill offers a second subsidy to steamers, based upon both their tonnage and their speed, and increasing gradually from five-tenths of one cent per ton for each one hundred nautical miles sailed by a two thousand ton steamer of twelve knots to two and three-tenths cents by a ten thousand ton steamer of twenty-one knots. This subsidy, so estimates have proved, affords an even, average compensation for foreign subsidies, and no more.

The total expenditure under the bill is limited to \$9,000,000 a year, of which not more than 70 per cent. shall go to Atlantic trade, and at least 30 per cent. to Pacific trade, if there are ships there to receive it. When the American merchant fleet under this stimulus increase so that \$9,000,000 will not suffice to pay the original subsidy rates, they are to be reduced pro rata among all the ships receiving subsidy. Ships in existence on January 1, 1900, are to enjoy the subsidy for ten years, and no longer; ships built after January 1, 1900, are to have subsidies for twenty years. But after ten years from the passage of the bill no new subsidies are to be granted. By that time it is believed that American shipbuilding and shipbuilding for the foreign trade, now so fearfully depressed, will be set on a sure road to prosperity. From "The Frye Shipping Bill Merits and Advantages of the Measure," by Winthrop L. Marvin, in the American Monthly Review of Reviews for February.

Notice.

The firm of Strain & Co. having retired from the grocery business, all accounts are now due and payable to Ben C. Strain at the old stand.

STRAIN & CO.

For Rent--Two-story brick dwelling and good outbuildings with 20 acres of land. On pike near Dodsonville. MRS. J. W. HAGGERTY.

AN EXTRA SESSION

Of Congress is Not Desired By President McKinley or the Republican Leaders.

No Prospect of a Break in the Nebraska Dead-Lock--The Cuban Constitution Being Considered by the Cabinet.

WASHINGTON, Feb. 1, 1901.

President McKinley is not desirous of calling an extra session of Congress, nor are the party leaders in Congress anxious to attend one. On the contrary, he and they would much prefer that the legislation considered necessary be disposed of at this session and an extra session be avoided; but, having their eyes open, they see, as do most observing persons, that circumstances may make one absolutely necessary. Among those "circumstances" is the tendency of the anti-Republican Senators to kill time in the discussion of items in regular appropriation bills, not because of opposition but because of a desire to take so much time in disposing of the appropriation bills that there will be time for no other legislation at this session. It was because of this condition of affairs that Senator Frye announced that he would not yield the place held by the Ship subsidy bill to any of the appropriation bills, unless compelled by a vote of the Senate to do so. Instead of being antagonistic to the appropriation bills, this action of Senator Frye was really in their interest, as it is generally admitted that if the Ship subsidy bill were passed, the appropriation bills could be disposed of much more rapidly, as there would then be no inducement for the opponents of the shipping bill to delay action on the appropriation so as to leave less time for other legislation.

Among the President's numerous callers this week were Representative and Senator-elect Gamble, and Representative Burke, of South Dakota. During their conversation with the President the fact was incidentally brought out that both of the South Dakotans were born in New York State. Curious, wasn't it?

Secretary Wilson received the highest sort of a compliment while the Agricultural appropriation bill, which was passed by the House this week, was being discussed. Representative Williams, of Mississippi, in the course of a few remarks concerning some of Secretary Wilson's official acts, declared that Mr. Wilson was "absolutely the best Secretary of Agriculture the country has ever had--the most non-partisan and impartial."

President McKinley sent a special message to Congress this week, renewing his recommendation to the last session that provision be made for indemnity to the families of the two Italian subjects who were lynched at Tallulah, La., July 20, 1890. Accompanying the message was a report from Secretary Hay reciting the failure of three successive local grand juries to indict the guilty parties.

Representative Mercer, who returned from Nebraska this week, says there was nothing to indicate an early break in the senatorial deadlock of the Legislature when he left Lincoln.

Secretary Root's statement that the Cuban Constitutional Convention would soon complete its work caused an entire Cabinet meeting this week to be devoted to consideration of the relations that must exist between this government and that of Cuba, and that should be plainly set forth in the constitution adopted by the Cubans. The Cabinet and the President were unanimously of the opinion that while the Cuban government should have entire control of internal affairs of the island, except that a limit should be set as to the amount of public debt it may contract, its relation with foreign powers must be subject to the approval of this government. This is a matter of self-defense for us. For instance, we cannot allow Cuba to make commercial treaties with other powers that would be detrimental to our interests, nor can we allow the island to get into a war with any nation. It was to put a stop to the war in Cuba that we fought Spain.

That there was never any idea of supplanting Gen. Miles as commander of the army by appointing one of the other major generals to the lieutenant generally created by the Army Reorganization Act, has been shown by the number and character of the conferences Secretary Root has been holding with Gen. Miles, in arranging to carry out the details of this reorganization and for securing the recruits needed. There are a set of men in Washington who for nearly four years have lost no opportunity to circulate stories calculated to create the impression that President McKinley and the War Department were constantly actuated by a desire to humiliate Gen. Miles. They originated the story that Miles would lose the command of the army, although there is absolutely nothing to show that any such idea has ever been entertained by either the President or the Secretary of War.